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- (b) a light beam producing light mounted on each one of said supports;
  - (c) a track traversable by said supports and said lights;
  - (d) a power supply couplable to each one of said lights to energize said respective lights; and,
  - (e) a drive mechanism for driving each one of said supports and said lights along said track, independently of driving of any other one of said supports and said lights along said path.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,025,777 to Hayakawa. The Examiner has rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayakawa.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-19 remain pending.

Hayakawa discloses an illumination apparatus incorporating a plurality of lamp assemblies. Each assembly includes a holder (5), a housing (2) and a lamp (L). Each one of lamps (L) is pivotally held in a separate one of housings (2); and, each one of housings (2) is pivotally held in a separate one of holders (5). All of the lamp assemblies are coupled to driving rods (11) which can be moved to pivot the lamp assemblies *in unison* to maintain Hayakawa's focusing objectives stated at column 1, lines 5-17.

For example, Hayakawa's Figure 6 embodiment illustrates ten separate lamp assemblies arranged in two rows of five lamp assemblies per row. Two separate driving rods (11) are provided—one for each row of the Figure 6 lamp assemblies. Each lamp assembly in a particular row is coupled, via a separate spring (9), to the driving rod (11) associated with that row. The driving rods (11) are mounted on an X-axis slide base (28) and on a Y-axis slide base (18). The driving rods (11) are also coupled to X-axis, Y-axis and Z-axis drive motors (32, 29 and 21, respectively). Connecting plates (34) are fixed between driving rods (11) (column 4, lines 67-68). Drive motors (32, 29 and 21) are operated to move driving rods (11) so as to pivot the lamp assemblies simultaneously, thereby keeping each lamp focused on a desired (movable) focal point (see column 5, lines 1-25).

Hayakawa suggests (column 8, lines 9-16) that the driving rods could remain fixed and the lamps moved to shift their focus, but all of the lamps of such an embodiment would still

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have to move simultaneously in order to attain Hayakawa's objective of keeping the lamps focused on the focal point of interest. It is thus apparent that movement of any one of Hayakawa's lamp assemblies is necessarily *dependent* on movement of all of the other lamp assemblies—if any one of Hayakawa's lamp assemblies moves then all of Hayakawa's lamp assemblies must move. By contrast, as indicated by Applicant's amended claims, any one of Applicant's light supports is movable *independently* of all of the other light supports. Any one of Applicant's light supports can be moved without movement of any other one(s) of Applicant's light supports. It can thus be seen that Hayakawa teaches away from Applicant's invention—if Hayakawa's lamp assemblies were permitted to move independently of one another, then the light field would be "scattered" (see Hayakawa column 5, lines 20-25) in clear contravention of Hayakawa's objective.

In accordance with the foregoing, it is submitted that amended claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Hayakawa. Claims 2-11 and 13-19 all depend from amended claims 1 and 12, respectively, and are therefore also believed to be patentable over Hayakawa. Allowance of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE



1. A lighting method, comprising:
  - (a) providing a plurality of lights, each one of said lights for producing a light beam;
  - (b) providing a plurality of movable light supports;
  - (c) mounting each one of said lights on a corresponding one of said supports;
  - (d) defining a path to be traversed by said supports and said lights; and,
  - (e) moving each one of said supports and said lights along said path, independently of movement of any other one of said supports and said lights along said path.
  
12. Lighting apparatus, comprising:
  - (a) a plurality of movable light supports;
  - (b) a light beam producing light mounted on each one of said supports;
  - (c) a track traversable by said supports and said lights;
  - (d) a power supply couplable to each one of said lights to energize said respective lights; and,
  - (e) a drive mechanism for driving each one of said supports and said lights along said track, independently of driving of any other one of said supports and said lights along said path.

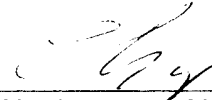
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Dated: September 24, 2002

  
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